

# Nation



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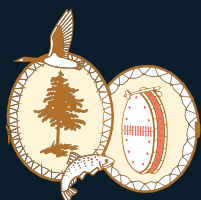
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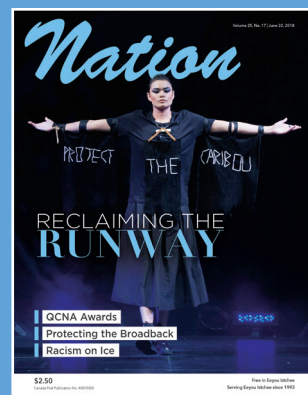


Photo by  
Nadya Kwandibens  
Red Works Photography





# Pride of the nation

by Will Nicholls



I remember a famous quote of Campbell's Soup CEO Doug Conant from my school days. "To win in the marketplace you must first win in the workplace." That is something I have tried to bring to every endeavour I have been involved in.

It has certainly been noticeable in the Nation over the years as we strived to make the best magazine we could to serve our readers. You may have noticed the bright, photo-rich design we have introduced over the past year or so to great response.

This is due to the great team we have here. Their commitment to quality is obvious, from the writing, photos and design. Having the readers tell us we had done a great job is a great source of pride for all of us.

The icing on the cake was spread at this year's QCNA awards. The awards recognize writers, photographers, sales people and designers in a variety of categories. The Nation is one of the few that consistently wins awards. This year was no different as we were honoured 13 times, including three first-place finishes, six in second place and four who received third-place honours.

This shows that Nation staff members are dedicated individuals who push past mediocrity who have a personal commitment to excellence. When others will rush headlong into new undertakings, whether a story or other duties, they remain mindful of the finishing touches that make a good job a superior job.

The mutual effort and dedication of all of us here at the Nation contributes to our success and survival. I look for-

## There have been many throughout the years in the Cree world who have **shown their support**

ward to seeing all the great things we will accomplish together in the coming years.

The Nation printed its first issue almost 25 years ago on a shoestring budget. No one received a salary for the first 10 months. We couldn't even afford one colour let alone full colour in the magazine. Still we were welcomed with open arms by Eeyou Istchee.

There were ups and downs through the years. One incident I remember from the early days was a phone call I received while in Mistissini for Goose Break. I was informed that our office had been broken into and that the thieves made off with all of our computers, tape recorders, camera, printer and other tools of the trade. I was crushed and shared my tale of woe at the blind with the other hunters, including the fact that we didn't have insurance. To my surprise the Mistissini

Band handed me a cheque for \$10,000 to cover the losses. I am forever grateful for their assistance in our time of need. The Nation might not have survived without them.

There have been many throughout the years in the Cree world who have shown their support in different ways, such as Air Creebec, which gets our journalists to where they need to go and takes the Nation to some of the more inaccessible communities we serve.

A community newspaper/magazine such as ours has always depended upon the support of the communities we serve and the job the Nation staff does shows they understand that.

We are proud to serve our communities and I am proud of all the staff who make this possible. Because of them we are winning in the workspace and thriving in the marketplace.



# Savage taunts

**First Nations hockey team** turns racist incidents into positive action

by Patrick Quinn

Members of a First Nations hockey team subjected to racist taunts at a recent tournament in Quebec City are feeling encouraged by the cross-Canada support they have received and hope the resulting attention will help root out racism in the sport.

The First Nation Elites Bantam AAA team is comprised of players aged 13 to 15 from numerous Cree, Atikamekw and Algonquin communities in Quebec, and other First Nations communities in Ontario and Nova Scotia. The offensive incidents occurred at the Coupe Challenge Québec AAA, which was held May 25-27.

Elites player Julien Marshall said he's experienced racism in every game since the team started playing this spring, but the atmosphere in Quebec City was particularly heated.

The team felt they were being stared at from the moment of arrival. After the Elites won the first game, the opposing team's players lined up on the blue line and made stereotypical "war cries" and tomahawk-chopping gestures.

Team manager Tommy H.J. Neeposh told the Nation that rather than condemn this type of behaviour, the referee just smiled at the players and said he had no control. Neeposh said his team was repeatedly frustrated by unfair refereeing, receiving penalty after penalty for what he calls clean hits while slashes and cross-checks by other teams were overlooked.

"We played against the refs, while the whole building targeted our players," said Neeposh. Several parents and players confirm that the team was called "savages" by at least one coach and many spectators.

By the fifth game, when Neeposh was compelled to make a video to document the questionable refereeing, he caught some parents on tape yelling, in French, "gang de sauvages".

"When I took the video I was all riled up and ready to get the old man, but I said to myself I'm going straight to the dressing room to talk to the boys because they don't deserve this," Neeposh recalls. "I told them, 'I'm proud of how hard you fought all the way to the end. These guys are losers for what they said to us. Remember boys, even after this, you're going to face this for the rest of your lives.'"

He also told the boys that he'd captured the events on video but only decided to release it publicly after the tournament organizers refused to apologize or accept accountability. Now that the video has gone viral, officials have issued a statement saying a "disciplinary committee is looking into the incident," but Neeposh says that they have still not responded to him.

The events have caused both outrage and a wave of support from across the country. Geoffrey Kelley, Quebec's Native Affairs Minister, said that the government "vehemently denounces these events."

"Parents should know better not to promote or instill racism and hatred slurs in this day and age," tweeted Abel Bosum, Grand Chief of the Cree Nation. "Governments need to legislate laws against this unacceptable behaviour."

Likewise, former Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come tweeted: "Nothing has changed since my Pee Wee days playing in Quebec City hockey tournaments. Guess parents just passed on their racist remarks. Quebec doesn't deserve an NHL team."

While many sporting events now have bylaws enforcing zero tolerance for racism, the tournament in Quebec City was not under jurisdiction of Hockey Quebec, the province's governing body for the sport. If it had been, Hockey Québec says it could investigate, educate and sanction players or coaches.

"Racism doesn't need to happen in our sports," Neeposh said. "Hockey is the main sport in Canada, all First Nations play hockey. Now that adults attack our boys, we're trying to raise awareness here. We have to turn this into a positive. Now I'm getting full support from everybody around the whole country."

Neeposh is proud of the restraint shown by his team, which he believes is one of the best ever assembled in the Cree Nation at this level. He began putting the team together in January, collecting players as they finished their regular seasons throughout the south. They didn't even have time to practice together before the competitions started.

"Everyone jumped in," exclaimed Neeposh. "These guys are going to leave the Cree Nation again to go play elite hockey competitions down south. If you want to compete at an elite level you have to move, the reserves only have 'A' category. If you want to improve your game you have to come down."

Neeposh knows players who have quit hockey because of racism but hopes the response to his video inspires young people to persevere.

"I've had so many emails from kids who say thank you for doing this. I want to tell these kids up north to stay positive. Keep fighting, there's no way that we're just going to quit like this. We're going to come out stronger as a team."

Neeposh even started a team GoFundMe account to receive donations after people were trying to give him money personally. He's most excited about a surprise offer from Winnipeg Jets assistant coach Todd Woodcroft to lead a practice for the boys in Ottawa.

"It shows that we do have a lot of support," Neeposh concluded. "This needs to get out to our kids, especially the ones who left the hockey world, to show that people do care."



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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)  
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

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Cree Nation Government  
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Celebrating four decades of Cree education while laying out **plans for the future**



## A teaching moment

by Amy German  
Photo provided by CSB

The roots for the Cree School Board (CSB) grew out of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. According to the CSB's Director General, Abraham Jolly, that's what the first 40 years has been focused on: establishing roots for a strong educational system.

"We've been building foundations and exploring what it means to be educated in Eeyou Istchee," Jolly said. "Our next 40 years must focus on education itself... the future of the Cree Nation depends on it."

*This tree is meant for the children here in our community and the growth of CSB and where we came from*

- Eastmain School Commissioner Nian Moses

In honour of the milestone, the CSB combined their Regional General Assembly in Eastmain June 5-6 with celebrations of the Board's 40th anniversary. The event was marked with the presentation of a new logo for the Cree School Board as well as a

tree-planting ceremony carried out by Jolly and Grand Chief Abel Bosum.

"The new logo represents where we are at with Cree education," noted Jolly. "We are entering into the next 40 years of our history, when there will be significant changes with the development of uniquely Cree mechanisms that will help build the Cree Nation. The logo reflects the tie to our land as well as our language and culture."

According to Eastmain School Commissioner Nian Moses, the tree planting was a sacred moment. Elder Florrie Mark Stewart blessed the tree and also read parts of speech she'd written with local students because, in the end, it really was about them.

"This tree is meant for the children here in our community and the growth of CSB and where we came from," explained Moses. "For a tree to grow, you have to nurture it, care for it and keep an eye on it."

Later that evening a traditional banquet of roast goose was served and several delegates in attendance gave speeches, including the Grand Chief. Cree square dancers, wearing traditional outfits from various communities, kicked off the festivities. Moses said delegates were overjoyed as commissioners took the opportunity to

show off their moves on the dance floor.

"The whole event was very touching for me as my father, Ted Moses, was the first Director General for the Cree School Board," emphasized Moses. "Being able to give back to my community is where my passion lies and so following in his footsteps is where it all comes from for me."

According to CSB Chairperson Kathleen Wooten, much of the assembly revolved around looking at what Crees wanted in terms of content and language within the Cree classrooms and how to deliver it.

Demands for both Cree language instruction and land-based teaching have increased. The Board is now looking to develop a curriculum for that. They have also formed committees to review the Cree content of the Cree Education Act.

"We want to amend the Cree Education Act to reflect more of the Cree philosophy and culture and rather than the curriculum that is being driven by Quebec," Wooten told the Nation. "We are working towards it being Cree driven and slowly reforming Cree education with more focus on Cree philosophy as opposed to the western model."



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Nemaska:	819-673-2400
Ouje-bougoumou:	418-745-2260
Waskaganish:	819-895-2126
Waswanipi:	819-753-2770
Wemindji:	819-978-3300
Whapmagoostui:	819-929-3796

If you have any additional questions or need more information, please contact the Correctional Services Regional Office in Val-d'Or at 819-874-2600 or by email at justice.valdor@cngov.ca

[www.creejustice.ca](http://www.creejustice.ca)

# EeyouMarineRegion

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Whapmagoostui: July 9-13  
Wemindji: July 30-August 3  
Waskaganish: August 13-17  
Chisasibi: Dates to be posted locally



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Questions?: Contact your local Eeyou Planning Commission Commissioner or the Eeyou Marine Region at 819-895-2202

## The search continues

The search for the final two members of the hunting party that went missing last October is beginning anew in Waskaganish. The remains of Kenneth Salt, 67, and Gabriel Shecapio, 30, have yet to be recovered. The bodies of their hunting partners, Matthew Diamond, 43, and John Patrick Salt, 48, were found in the early days of the search back in the fall of 2017.

Beginning June 2, the search was initially hampered by inclement weather conditions. “We’ve currently completed four days of searches,” said Ryan Erless, Director of Community Services in Waskaganish, on June 13. “We’re planning at least seven days of searches but the windy conditions have prevented us from getting out onto the water recently.”

Earlier this spring what looked like an arm bone was recovered by a hunting party and it was subsequently sent off to the Sûreté du Québec for forensic testing to determine whether it was human or animal. However, Erless explained that moose bones were found in the area, leading him to believe it wasn’t from the body of one of the missing hunters.

## Fake status cards

The Mohawk community of Kahnawake is in a struggle to police non-Indigenous individuals using unrecognized status cards granted to them by the Confederation of Aboriginal Peoples and the so-called Mikinak Community to access tax exemption, according to the CBC.

No government at the federal or provincial level recognizes the Confederation of Aboriginal Peoples (not to be confused with the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples), but that hasn’t stopped them from issuing

“status cards” that have at times been confused for the real thing.

They are the parent group associated with the Chibougamau “Métis” community that the Nation reported on in 2017 and the widely discredited Mikinaks. While the Chibougamau group has since retreated from the public eye, the Confederation continues to demand Indigenous rights despite the debunking of their Acumetrics “DNA test,” which was called into question by a CBC investigative program.

## Waswanipi boating accident

Three Cree went overboard in the O’Sullivan River on June 2. One of the three swam to shore while the others were lost in the current. Lee Roy Blacksmith told the CBC that the three men probably exceeded the weight limit

of the boat and no one was wearing a life jacket.

While Jonathan Otter survived, both Laurence and Raymond Blacksmith drowned in the accident. A funeral service was held June 9 in Waswanipi for the two men.





# Rebelling

## against stereotypes



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HELEN ORO

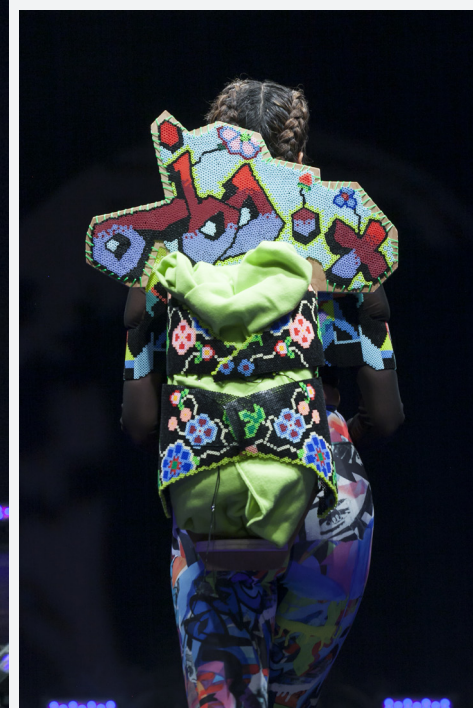
Indigenous Fashion Week Toronto  
turns **design into empowerment**

DESIGN BY TRACY TOULOUSE

by Juliette Danger  
Photos by Nadya Kwandibens  
Red Works Photography



DESIGN BY  
DENISE BRILLON



DESIGN BY  
CATHERINE BLACKBURN

Beautifully blending culture, tradition and design, Indigenous Fashion Week Toronto succeeded in presenting something far beyond a conventional fashion show.



*There's a lot of mysticism around Indigenous people across the world, so I think having something where we control the narrative is **very crucial***

- Anishinaabe model, Ziibiwan Rivers



From May 31 to June 2, models strutted the work of Indigenous designers from around the world up and down the Harbourfront catwalks of the festival.

And while the shows were heavily focused on the progressive and provocative work of some of the world's most renowned Indigenous designers, it also sewed into its programing powerful calls for social change and revolutionary representations of Indigenous identity.

IFWTO actually revelled in subverting and reimagining perceptions of Indigenous people and culture.

The goal was to present concepts of Indigenous identity that rebel against the long history of stereotyping, exploiting and commodifying the works, designs and crafts of Indigenous creators and communities.

"There's a lot of mysticism around Indigenous people across the world, so having something

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The pieces collectively and **compellingly commanded** inclusion into what the festival calls the colonial artistic construct

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where we control the narrative is very crucial," said Ziibiwan Rivers, an Anishinaabe model at IFWTO.

The work of many designers followed suit. Many of the most incendiary pieces were designed to challenge mainstream representations of Indigenous tradition and symbolism. The pieces compellingly commanded inclusion into what the festival calls the colonial artistic construct – a tradition that historically excluded Indigenous art.

In addition to runway shows, the four-day event included workshops on traditional crafting, a marketplace of Indigenous-made work and a lecture series discussing topics of Indigenous identity and cultural appropriation.

The Trade & Consumer Marketplace hosted dozens of Indigenous artisans and their work. Available at the many booths were artworks, apparel, accessories and jewellery – all made with traditional techniques accompanied by a contemporary, pop-culture flair.

The marketplace also included a designer showroom, where selected works seen on the



runway were available for purchase. It also featured an Original Makers Space, which provided female Elders a space for their work to be viewed, created and sold.

Those hoping to feature their own work were able to take part in several practical workshops designed to reinvigorate interest and knowledge in traditional Indigenous art forms and design techniques. Some notable workshops included a Black Walnut Dyeing tutorial, a Navajo Rug Weaving class, and an Intro to Applied Beading course.

Those fortunate enough to secure a spot at the hugely popular runway events got a front-row seat to some of the most ground-breaking presentations of Indigenous design that Canada has ever seen. Like every aspect of the festival, the runway shows incorporated concepts of Indigenous tradition, with each event being inspired by the traditional seasons of the moon.

The collections weaved together various social themes. From abstract symbolism to overt political allegory, they called on audiences to reflect on issues from environmentalism and land sovereignty, to gender equality and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

"Events like Indigenous Fashion Week are a platform for designers and artists to showcase what contemporary Indigenous fashion is, and creates a current space for the Indigenous voice," said Catherine Blackburn, an Indigenous designer featured at the festival. Blackburn made headlines for her provoking New Age Warriors collection, which featured vibrant futurist imaginings of traditional Indigenous regalia through the use of neon fabrics, LED visors, and graffiti inspired bead-work patterns.

Beyond the festival, IFWTO aspires to become a leader in exporting authentic Indigenous-made work, and is pushing to empower creators by bridging their work with "international audiences, festivals, buyers, retailers, curators and institutes."

The IFWTO organization also provides powerful resources for Indigenous creators, focusing on professional skills development, as well as the creation of opportunities for networking and business advancement. It also ensures that 60% or more of its programming is dedicated to Indigenous women, whether they be designers, artists or experts in craft.

Sage Paul, Founder and Artistic Director of IFWTO, spoke of the significance of the event and its future editions. "We wanted to create a space for ourselves, because if we don't, no one else will."

The festival will return in the summer of 2020, and organizers hope to engage an even greater number of Indigenous artists.

*We wanted to create a space for ourselves,  
because if we don't, **no one else will***

- Founder and Artistic Director IFWTO, Sage Paul





# BEHIND THE ACCOLADES



## How *the Nation* brought home the hardware from the **QCNA Awards Gala**

by *the Nation* Staff

**F**or over two decades the Nation has participated in the Quebec Community Newspaper Association (QCNA) Awards, a gala to honour journalists, photographers, editors and publishers from across the province for their work in community media.

And every year we've taken home our fair share of hardware.

One of our first entries in the competition – back in 1994 – was “Inside The Evil Empire,” by Will Nicholls.

“After years of fighting against the infamous Mega-Corp Hydro-Québec in the north-eastern United States, I was about to finally visit the dams that I felt had damned my people,” read the article’s opening line. “It is hard to approach this type of story without a bias or an opinion, so I didn’t even try.”

To our surprise the article, which had been submitted as almost a joke, won third place honours. After that, the Nation started taking the awards a little more seriously

This year, however, the Nation was unfortunately unable to attend the event hosted at the Hotel Mont Gabriel in Sainte-Adèle, Quebec on June 8.

As you’re aware by now, a car hit Editor-in-chief Will Nicholls in early March. He underwent separate surgeries on his ankle in April and May and is still on crutches. Meanwhile, Production Coordinator Dan Isaac recently welcomed his first child into the world.

Our long-suffering editor and 2016 recipient of the QCNA’s Lindsay Crysler Outstanding Achievement Award, Lyle Stewart, was also unable to attend.

According to Carolyn Kitkanuk, Assistant Administrator at the QCNA, we were missed. Several guests at the yearly gala asked about the Nation. She’s also assured us that Will’s recent editorial detailing the grisly accident

has been scanned and sent out to the QCNA’s Board of Directors.

But on to the accolades.

The Nation took home nine writing honours, two photography awards and two advertising awards.

Our long-time sports writer, Dan Coyle, took home first place for best sports story for his article “The New Arms Race” – about the father-son arm-wrestling competitors, John and Casey Bosum.

“There’s something to be said for the ability to take a niche sport and craft it into something so engaging,” category judge Brad Brown said of the article. “The art of research, interviewing and storytelling are all on full display here. Magnifique!”

Nation newcomer Ben Powless won top honours in the Arts and Entertainment category for his piece on the life and art of Annie Pootoogook. He also came third in the Best Education Story category.

“In just 10 words [Powless] hooks the reader with a tantalizing intro that acts as a doorway into the world of Annie Pootoogook,” said judge Juris Graney, reporter for the Edmonton Journal. “Coupled with some excellent layout, this entertainment feature was a joy to read and re-read.”

Ironically, those 10 words, that lead, became a point of contention during that production cycle. Production Coordinator Dan Isaac fought editor Lyle Stewart tooth and nail to preserve Powless’ original text. The argument even included a late-night call and email to the author himself. Powless’ response to the call and email was that he couldn’t tell the difference between his original line and the edited version. In the end Lyle won and was evidently right – in hindsight.

Our final first place of the evening came from photographer Peter Power, for his work at last summer’s North American Indigenous Games.

Waskaganish photographer Ian Diamond received a second-place finish for his photo of last year’s Journey of Hope.



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◁ Γρσ"Δ̇ΛΠ]·▷ρσ·Δ<sup>c</sup>: **Byyourself@cngov.ca**



## OUR PROGRAM

**Taapwaauyimiisu (Believe in yourself)** program is a resource available for the schools in the three Cree communities, where the pilot project is currently being launched . We offer support to the students' ages 12 to 17 years old who, for various reasons, are temporarily suspended from 3 to 5 days from school.

The expression ***“Believe in yourself”*** is dear to our program as we want to send a strong message of empowerment and self-worth to our youth.

## OUR SERVICE SITES

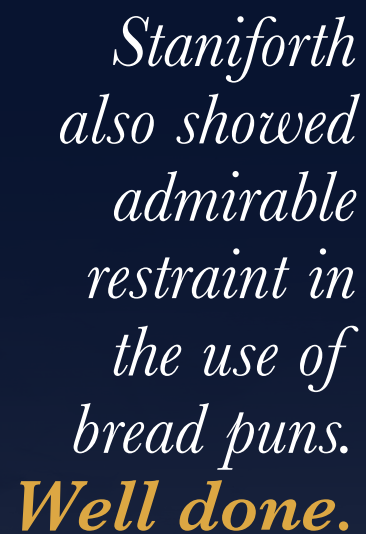
Taapwaauchaayimiisu program in Mistissini has officially moved in their new service site at the Family Resource Centre (Old Youth Centre). Thank you, Cree Nation of Mistissini, for your collaboration in providing space for our youth.

We would also like to thank everyone that attended our open houses in Waskaganish and Chisasibi.

Should you require more information, please contact the coordinator.

**Tel: (819) 527-0407**

E-mail: ***Byyourself@cngov.ca***



- Judge, Emma Graney

Another notable second place went to Jessie Staniforth for his article on the Chisassibi bread shortage of 2017 in the Best Business Story category. He also received a third place plaque in the Best Feature category.

"A quirky and fun read about a bread crisis in the community," said judge Emma Graney, provincial affairs reporter for the Edmonton Journal. "Staniforth also showed admirable restraint in the use of bread puns. Well done."

Both Matthew Dessner and Jinheng Taing won second place in the Best Advertising Creation Small Format and Best Ad categories, respectively.

Rounding out our list of winners was Dan Isaac, who took

home second place in Best Education Story, Will Nicholls who finished third for Best News Story, Josh Grant also came third in the Best Environmental Story, and the Nation came second in the Best Headline Writing Category.

In the end though, the real prize is delivering the best possible Nation to our readers. Still it's always nice to be recognized for the work we do by our peers and we look forward to rubbing elbows with them at next year's gala.

We'd like to end this by thanking all our readers for bringing us into your homes and workplaces, and making us part of your community.





# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**TITLE:** Director General (DG)  
**DURATION:** Full-time  
**PROBATION PERIOD:** Six (6) months  
**EMPLOYER:** MoCreebec Eeyoud Council/Board – Moose Factory/Mosonee, ON  
**SALARY:** Commensurate with qualifications/experience

## SUMMARY:

The Director General (DG) is responsible for the overall direction and daily management of all MoCreebec Eeyoud Council/Board operations. This includes general oversight of six (6) departments and seven (7) subsidiary corporations. May also include other departments and corporations as they come on stream from time to time. The DG is directly accountable to the Council/Board with general accountability to the community members at large.

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** Available upon request

## EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

- University degree in public or business financial administration

## EXPERIENCE

- Five years or more of relevant experience
- Budget planning and staff management

## LANGUAGES

- Fluency in Cree is an asset
- Good oral and written skill in English
- Fluency in French is an asset

## KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

- Strong management, supervisory and coaching skills
- Strong judgement problem solving skills
- Strong leadership skills with strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Strong organizational skills and ability to coordinate multiple tasks
- Good knowledge of computers and Microsoft office products

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Character reference checks (3)
- Criminal Police Investigation Check (CPIC)
- Credit rating check

**CLOSING DEADLINE (Email or Postal): August 3, 2018 by 4 pm**

**PRIMARY CONTACT:** Chief, Allan Jolly @ (705) 665-3984 (cell).

For general inquiries or request for job description, call Front Desk of MoCreebec Eeyoud at (705) 658-4769 extension 2006. Job description can be accessed on MoCreebec Council website

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## City of change

### Attention to Val-d'Or policing problem leads to positive change for local Indigenous

by Amy German | Photos provided by Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre

Often derided as the “Sin City of the North”, Val-d'Or has seen its share of crises over the last decade. There's also been opportunity in the face of these challenges. Through documenting and developing programming to address the issues, the city's Native Friendship Centre (NFC) has helped foster positive change.

According to NFC Executive Director Edith Cloutier, it was about a decade ago that a “big-city problem” became a local reality.

In the late 2000s, the city's homeless population was growing rapidly, composed largely of Indigenous people from surrounding communities. They had come for a litany of reasons, but it became a problem for the residents of the town of 33,000 when homeless people began hanging around the city, even creating an improvised “tent city” when winter arrived.

Eventually, some began sleeping in heated bank entries housing ATMs or in doorways of businesses. Local merchants were first to voice their frustration to the city's chamber of commerce. Initially, the Val-d'Or city hall echoed what many cities across Canada had done: ticket the homeless.

Police began issuing tickets under increasingly tenuous legal circumstances. After the amount of unpaid tickets piled up, the homeless individual would be arrested and sent to jail.

Because the NFC's role is to work for social justice and defend the rights of Indigenous people, Cloutier felt the need to find alternatives to sending homeless people to jail simply for being homeless. They hired outreach workers to make connections with those on the streets to try and link them with social services.

“The homeless were getting ticketed for just sitting on a bench or getting picked up and dropped off in isolated areas,” said Cloutier, who was recently awarded an honorary doctorate by Concordia University for her work in service to the wellness of urban Indigenous people.

“So that became part of the whole issue of Indigenous women speaking out against sexual and physical abuse by the police. Through

all of that conflict and tension and turmoil, we opened Willie's Place.”

Chez Willie's Place was a pilot project at that time, a day centre for the city's homeless where they could stay warm, rest, get help and talk to someone if they wanted to. Following its creation, the mistreatment of Indigenous people in Val-d'Or became a point of national interest.

Radio-Canada's Enquête program spoke to Indigenous women who shared stories of sexual and physical abuse at the hands of Val-d'Or police. This included “starlight tours” where police would take Indigenous men or women out of town to allegedly abuse them and leave them to find their own way back, often in the dead of winter. The issue of ticketing grew as a matter of contention.

Under pressure to act, the provincial government created a special-measures fund and suddenly the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre had money for projects that they had been trying to fund for years.

Fast forward to 2018 and Chez Willie's Place now has permanent funding. A special service space to support Indigenous women called Niguan has also been funded. A housing project, Kijaté, also broke ground last June 21. Two-dozen new apartments are now housing 135 Indigenous people.

The largest cherry on the sundae, according to Cloutier, was when, at the request of the Cree Nation Government, the City of Val-d'Or joined a UNESCO coalition of municipalities against racism. The declaration was made official when the Secretary-General of the Canadian commission of UNESCO, Sébastien Goupil, presented the certificate at the Gabriel Commanda Walk Against Racism.

While the city still has its problems, Cloutier says, they are not what they used to be.



*“The homeless were getting **ticketed** for **just sitting on a bench** or getting **picked up and dropped off in isolated areas**”*

– NFC Executive Director, Edith Cloutier



# The final push

Protecting Waswanipi's Broadback Forest from a renewed threat

by Patrick Quinn | Photo provided by Canopy

**W**hen the Cree Nation Government signed a forestry co-management agreement with the Quebec government in 2015, Waswanipi members were unhappy that the protected area did not include their section of the Broadback Valley.



A letter from Premier Philippe Couillard was then annexed to the deal, affirming the government's willingness to have "meaningful discussions" to include Waswanipi. Two-thirds of the Broadback forest are presently set aside for protection and forestry companies have been abiding by a voluntary moratorium on logging, but an aggressive logging proposal revealed earlier this year threatening the region once again.

A conservation campaign to protect the remaining 10,000 square kilometres of the Broadback, which

Canopy have added their voices to the Waswanipi struggle, bringing reporters to the northern forest and Cree leaders to the global stage.

"In the last year or so, Canopy has got the support of more than 20 (international) companies with annual sales of more than \$74 billion US to write letters to the Quebec government to voice their support for the completion of the Broadback forest conservation area," Melissa Filion, Canopy's Quebec Director and Senior Corporate Campaigner, told the Nation.

collaborating to conserve British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest two years ago. They hope to similarly leverage political and economic influence to preserve Waswanipi's "landscape of hope".

Deputy Grand Chief Mandy Gull believes the connections provided by these NGOs, who have each worked with Waswanipi for several years, can help raise the Broadback's profile with governments, the business world and the public. She joined Canopy to present Waswanipi's conservation plan at various international

ty leader who was there to voice the vision for the community," said Filion. "Often these retailers aren't aware of the impact they can have on the ground, and it was beneficial for the Cree to see in a very tangible way the support they can get from the marketplace."

Last March, the Quebec government sent a letter to Waswanipi Cree Nation, inviting leaders to state their expectations for protecting the remaining area of the Broadback, reopening a dialogue that had been dormant for nearly two years.

The healthy and abundant Broadback ecosystem not only supports traditional hunting, fishing and trapping, but it is also one of the last refuges for old-growth trees in the province and endangered species like eagles, wolverines and woodland caribou. A report last year revealed there were only 15 caribou left in a threatened herd near neighbouring Val-d'Or, half the number of five years before.

Deputy Grand Chief Gull first became aware of the Broadback forest while

Canopy has recently launched a promotional campaign **featuring a puzzle with a missing piece**, representing the push to finalize the Broadback conservation area

working under former chief Paul Gull, and later became very good friends with Don Saganash Sr., who has one of the last intact traplines in the area. She has become an outspoken advocate for greater protections of the Broadback forest, for which the Waswanipi Nation has been striving for nearly 20 years.

Gull has called the Broadback one of the most beautiful places she's ever witnessed, with its "trees and trees as far as you could see." Besides the importance of its undisturbed traplines and thriving wildlife, she sees the Broadback as an opportunity for the Cree and Quebec to showcase carbon crediting and lead the international fight against climate change.

"This forest is a major carbon storage area and we are giving back to everyone in protecting it," Gull told the Nation. "Personally, I would like to see it settled before any more impacted Elders leave us."

She explains that transitions in staff had stalled negotiations but recent appointments of a new Deputy Minister and team have brought a new surge of energy to discussions. Gull is currently chairperson for

the Cree Quebec table on the Environment and Protected Areas.

"We started a dialogue with Quebec and we have plans to work with the community before we sit down again in the fall," Gull said.

Both Gull and Filion share a sense of urgency, believing there is a great opportunity now to implement an agreement before the next provincial election.

"The more we wait, the more the Broadback will be under threat," Filion explained, noting the movement's burgeoning support from environmental groups and scientists. "We're hopeful, we're excited, and the time is now."

Canopy has recently launched a promotional campaign featuring a puzzle with a missing piece, representing the push to finalize the Broadback conservation area. This puzzle has been shared with key representatives of the Quebec government, the Cree government, Waswanipi and the marketplace. It's also being advertised in newspapers and various restaurants in Quebec.

"The puzzle is a great promotional item – it really showcases how Quebec is the one holding the last piece to finish the job," said Gull.



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*"The more we wait, the more the Broadback will be under threat"*

- Canopy's Quebec Director and Senior Corporate Campaigner, Melissa Filion

the Waswanipi call the Mishigamish, has drawn an unprecedented level of social and economic support from around the world. International non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including Greenpeace and

Canopy works for large-scale forest conservation by harnessing the power of the marketplace, seeking sustainable solutions that balance conservation with economic interests. One of their notable successes was

conferences, including the Skoll World Forum in the UK and a brand summit of fashion companies in New York City.

"That was so helpful in connecting the end users to a First Nation communi-



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With their bandwagon pretty full, the Winnipeg Jets took us all the way to the Western Conference Finals. But alas, they had to bow out to the relentless Vegas Golden Knights. Winnipeg's Dustin "Big Buff" Byfuglien was a machine on the ice. The hardest hitting player in the league nearly pulled it off against the eventual Western Conference Champions.

Sadly, Canada's other favourite team south of the border, the Bruins were handled easily by the Tampa Bay Lightning in five games. They did, however, do the NHL a favour in the first round by eliminating the Leafs in a long seven game series. I think Babcock's team was a little too much for the Bruins as they didn't look the same in the Tampa series. With a young team like the Leafs, I'm sure we'll be seeing both teams a lot in future playoffs.

Washington had finally gotten over that big hump of beating the slightly talented Pittsburgh Penguins who seemed to have been lacking the quality goaltending that Marc-André Fleury brought them at times. This is probably one gamble they want back when they went all in on Matt Murray. After eliminating the Pens, the Caps tip-toed their way to the Finals. A determined bunch, we saw them throw in some last minute efforts to get that win. Alexander Ovechkin played his heart out but stayed within the coach's system, proving beneficial in the end.



**Alex Ovechkin** celebrating after the win

Seeing the Golden Knights cruising their way to the Finals, I'm sure everyone expected this Cinderella story to end with them hoisting the Cup. Why not? They were a team of destiny, a team of players who had to prove to every team that didn't protect them, they made a mistake by not doing so. The self-proclaimed "Rejects" would have loved to end their run like that.

I guess most everyone wanted to see that too, but then some of us also wanted to see Ovechkin finally get his Cup. With the likes of T.J. Oshie (an Ojibway brother), Evgeny Kuznetsov (who has the worst “celly” ever), Matt “The Goose” Niskanen, Nick Backstrom providing supporting roles, and backstopped by Brayden Holtby, these Caps proved they belonged. This determined bunch somehow found a way to beat the Golden Knights with

their neutral zone pressure along with their powerplay. Most times you wondered how they were able to get past all the hitting and offensive pressure the Vegas team came with. Destiny, I guess.

One thing that the playoffs could have done without was the annoyingly long intros that Vegas had before every game! Like, come on! Yes, it was pretty cool to see that in the first round but towards the end it was, how would you put it? Overkill. I could've gone to hit the tables for a half hour and come back in time for puck drop. In five games, the Capitals did us all a favour by winning it on their rink. I couldn't handle anymore intros.

Up to today, I don't think Ovechkin has let go of the Stanley Cup. Since they won, I've been checking the news to see where these guys are celebrating next. The non-stop partying is a rare sight to see in this day and age, but it's somewhat a welcome sight. After years of heartbreaking losses in the playoffs it was nice to see them finally come out on top.

Following Ovechkin's week-long parade, this was definitely one for the ages.

One thing that the playoffs could have done without was the annoyingly long intros that Vegas had before every game! **Like, come on!**



# Under the Northern Sky A Miner's Prayer

by Xavier Kataquapit

www.underthenorthernsky.com



If you live in Ontario you will be treated to a lot of great music this summer. One performer in particular is shining these days – Matt James (Naveau) of Mattagami First Nation.

Matt grew up as part of a large, musical family in Mattagami. Matt has been performing for years and has composed hundreds of songs. American groups, like the Wells Family and Circa Blue, have recorded some of his tunes. At only 31, he really has paid his dues, primarily with Sudbury's Canucky Bluegrass Boys as an award-winning bass player and songwriter for the last 10 years.

With the support of his best friend Lee D. Roy, also a member of Canucky Bluegrass Boys, he has plans to record an eight-song album in Nashville this year. They are making it happen through fundraising and the support of family, friends and fans.

In May he released his first single, "A Miner's Prayer", on iTunes. His self-titled album Matt James was released at a CD launch party in Sudbury at the Caruso Club June 1. His music has been well received and he is quickly establishing a fan base from far and wide. None of this happened overnight as Matt has kept plugging away as a singer, bass player, guitarist and performer in

**Matt's dedication to his career** is an inspiration to young Aboriginal people in his home community

bars, clubs and at events over the past decade. His hard work is paying off.

I am well acquainted with Matt's family and friends back on the rez in Mattagami First Nation and I can tell you they all love him dearly. They are his biggest fans. I was saddened to hear of the passing last summer of his father James, who was a leader in the community. That was a very difficult time for Matt. However, he had a dream one night in a sort of visit from his dad who told him about what the life of a miner was. Incredibly, when Matt awoke he went right to work and penned his first single, "A Miner's Prayer", in a tribute to his father. This song is a big favourite with his fans.

Lucky for Matt he was discovered by Juno award winner and popular performer Wapistan, Lawrence Martin, who hails from Moose Cree First Nation on the James Bay coast. I am also well acquainted with the work of Wapistan and he is the perfect person to be managing Matt at this point in his career. Wapistan has a background also in politics and was the Grand Chief of Muskegowuk Council and mayor of

Sioux Lookout and Cochrane where he now resides.

I am very impressed with Matt's new single. He has a great voice and his song lingered on my mind. You can find out where Matt is performing this summer by going to his website ([www.mattjamesmusic.ca](http://www.mattjamesmusic.ca)) or on Facebook at Matt James Fanpage. For more information or to book him for a performance you can contact Lawrence Martin Wapistan at 416-500-8242 or email [wapistan2015@gmail.com](mailto:wapistan2015@gmail.com)

Matt's dedication to his career is an inspiration to young Aboriginal people in his home community and across northern Ontario. There has always been a lack of individuals who could step out of our communities to do something in music, performance or the creative arts. We need more individuals like Matt who are working hard to perform to become noticed and to share their Native roots and their heritage with as many people in the world as possible. He makes First Nation youth feel proud.

That's a big deal.

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# Cree School Board NOTICE OF ELECTIONS FOR CHAIRPERSON

Notice is hereby given that the elections for the office of the Chairperson of the Cree School Board have been called and will be held on July 25, 2018.

The opening of the nominations will start Friday June 1, 2018 and will CLOSE June 22, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Eligibility to vote and participate in the elections are as follows:

- To be a Cree Beneficiary in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement
- To be of the age of majority at the date of the elections (18 years of age on July 25, 2018)
- Not to be affected by any legal capacity

The Deadline for submission of the nomination forms is at 5:00 PM on June 22, 2018.

Any nominations received after this time will not be accepted.

The nominees will have until 5:00 PM on Friday June 29, 2018

to inform the Chief Returning Officer whether to accept or decline his/her nomination.

**ADVANCE POLLS: JULY 19, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

**DATE OF ELECTION: JULY 25, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

For further information or to request a copy of the Nomination Forms, please feel free to contact the Chief Returning Officer

Mr. John-Henry Wapachee at [ChiefReturningOfficer@cscree.qc.ca](mailto:ChiefReturningOfficer@cscree.qc.ca)

NOTICE GIVEN ON THIS 1ST DAY OF JUNE, 2018.

**BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER**

John Henry Wapachee  
Chief Returning Officer  
Cree School Board Elections 2018





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